

California State Journal of Medicine

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Contributors, subscribers and readers will find important information on the sixteenth advertising page following the reading matter.

VOL. XIX

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THE 1922 MEETING OF THE STATE SOCIETY

The fifty-first annual session of the Medical Society of the State of California will be held in Yosemite National Park, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1922.

The American Medical Association session for 1922 will be held in St. Louis, Monday to Thursday, May 22 to 25.

It will be feasible to leave Yosemite after the close of the State meeting and be in St. Louis in time to attend the National meeting.

Arrangements are being made so that delegates, members and visitors from the western states may purchase reservations to the American Medical Association meeting with four days' stop-over privileges at Yosemite.

A proposition is being developed whereby members and visitors from eastern states may secure reservations that will allow them to come to our meeting and then go on to St. Louis.

A number of new sections have been created by action of the House of Delegates and the Council. A complete list of the sections with the name and address of the chairman and secretary of each section is published on page 379 of this number of the JOURNAL.

Each chairman and secretary already has the time and space arrangements allotted by the program committee to their section.

Members desiring to present papers should write to the chairman or secretary of the appropriate section promptly, giving the subject of the paper.

In case of doubt as to the appropriate section or where the contributor prefers to do so for any other reason, they may write directly to the Secretary of the Society as Chairman of the Pro-

gram Committee, who will refer the request to the appropriate section for action.

There will be three general sessions, similar to the one that was held this year at Coronado. The program for these meetings will be handled by the general program committee.

The section on Medical Economics, Education and Hospitals has been assigned to the League for the Conservation of Public Health. This will constitute, in effect, a fourth general session, and will replace the former "League Luncheon."

The program is arranged for three meetings a day, 10 a. m. to 12:30 p. m., 2 to 4:30 p. m. and 8 to 10 p. m. These hours have been selected by the program committee so as to allow the greatest possible opportunity for recreation and social pleasures.

The morning hours of 10 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. are all taken up with the general sessions and the one morning devoted to the section on Medical Economics. A hall to seat one thousand people is being provided for these meetings.

The section meetings will all be held during the afternoons and evenings. Six meeting halls, each seating from two hundred to four hundred persons, are being arranged for section work. Hours for the various sections have been arranged so as to cause the least possible amount of inconvenience to those interested in the work of more than one section.

An "official" social program is not contemplated by the program committee. It is believed that members and visitors will secure more pleasure in Yosemite by not attempting any "organized" social and recreational program.

Space is being arranged for both scientific and commercial exhibits, and the committee will be glad to hear from anyone interested in this phase of the program.

The usual two meetings of the House of Delegates and three meetings of the Council are arranged for, and there will be one meeting of the Council with the officers of constituent societies.

The presidents and secretaries of the various western state societies, as well as those of Mexico, Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands, have been invited to attend as unofficial delegates, and if a sufficient number accept there will be one meeting of this group with the officers of our own society for the discussion of problems of mutual interest.

The Council has approved the program committee's plan that all invitations to persons or organizations to the Yosemite meeting be issued in the name of the society and not by any individual or section. Members or sections desiring any invitations sent are requested to furnish the chairman of the program committee with the names and addresses as promptly as possible. The attendance of a number of physicians of national prominence already is assured.

The last meeting of the program committee and of the Council before the annual meeting will be the latter part of January. The program **MUST** be complete by that date. It will positively go to press the first week in February.

Members are urged to make their requests for assignment, giving the title and a brief synopsis of their paper as soon as possible to the appropriate section officers or to the Secretary of the Society.

The program committee invites constructive comments and suggestions regarding the program or upon any point that will help to make this year's meeting the most profitable of any in the Society's history.

Further comment regarding the program and the 1922 session will be found in each succeeding issue of the JOURNAL.

The November number will contain information regarding reservations, transportation and similar subjects. Rules regarding papers, discussions and programs will be issued in an early number.

Make your plans to go to Yosemite Monday to Thursday, May 15 to 18, and to attend the American Medical Association meeting in St. Louis, Monday to Thursday, May 22 to 25.

STOCK SELLING HOSPITALS

It seems advisable to publish a word of caution to members of the medical profession regarding purchasing stock and otherwise co-operating with visionary or unsound hospital propositions.

Information in this office and in the office of the League for the Conservation of Public Health shows clearly that, in addition to a considerable increase in the worthy activities for the expansion of hospital facilities in various communities, there is a much larger number of propositions that are poorly conceived, visionary and in some instances unsound and even dangerous.

The records of practically all of these proposi-

tions are in the League office. Physicians will do well before supporting any proposition financially or by service, to secure the facts of the situation. Before investing time or money in any new hospital project, you may save both by writing to the League for particulars. Some are devoting time or giving their moral influence to projects that can never materialize.

THE CANCER SITUATION

Sufficiently striking to merit attention is the statement in an article elsewhere in this number that California has the highest cancer death rate in the United States outside of New England. This high rate ought to be reduced and the only way in which it can be reduced is to get our cancer patients to come earlier for treatment—for after it has widely metastasized, cancer is hopeless in the face of the highest surgical skill.

We can get our cancer patients earlier only by educating them about cancer—by convincing them that early cancer is curable and by telling them how they may recognize its beginnings. This education must come from the medical profession. To this end the American Society for the Control of Cancer deserves the united support of the medical profession in its intensive campaign of publicity during Cancer Week, October 30 to November 5.

FIXING THE SURGEON'S FEE

The action of the trustees of one of our large eastern hospitals in fixing a maximum fee for surgical operations has aroused much discussion in both the medical and lay press and wherever men gather. In California the comment is practically all in the nature of criticism of various degrees and types.

That such a ruling could be necessary or advisable in any hospital is susceptible of interpretation of past practices that the staff members of most good hospitals resent. It is difficult to believe that the surgeons of our profession, or any considerable group of them, have so far forgotten their teachings and commercialized their activities as to warrant action of the character under discussion. If such is the case, the choice of the hospital in which to make an experiment in discipline is unfortunate. This institution is heavily endowed by a great foundation and its staff members, who formerly rendered their services for personal fees, are now, in part at least, employed upon full time salary, render services for fees that are collected by the institution and used for institutional purposes.

Fair-minded persons will not want to question the motives of the distinguished board of trustees of this splendid institution, but the vast majority of physicians, as well as the thinking element of the community, are regretting a step that unquestionably is not in the best interests of the medical profession or of the public.

In a sense the persons directly affected by this ruling are practicing corporation or socialized medicine. The voice of the profession is against this principle. Surely it will not decrease the aggregate cost of medicine to the public. It will decrease a comparatively small number of large fees to people well able to pay them. It will result in a general upward tendency of fees by surgeons of all grades of ability, this under the perfectly natural philosophy that, now that a fee has been fixed for the best, no one can charge less, for fear he may be classed as second rate. So on through